(c) the details of the steps proposed to be taken by the Government to prevent the recurrence of such incidents?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI M. M. JACOB): (a) According to information received from the Government of Assam, Shri Gritchenko Sergei was kidnapped by ULFA militants on 1-7-91 and later killed.

(b) On 3-7-91, the ULFA through a Press Release demanded release of six hard-core ULFA militants by 6 p.m. on 9-7-91 in exchange of release of Shri Gritchenko and another kidnapped official. On 8-7-91, the Chief Minister, Assam announced his decision to release the six hard-core militants over AIR and Doordarshan and they were actually released at 5.00 P.M. on 9-7-91.

(c) The State Government have intensified the security arrangements to prevent recurrence of such incidents and all help is being given to them.

Joint Meeting of Officers of India and Bangladesh

1283. SHRI RAJENDRA AGNIHOTRI: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether a joint meeting of Officers of India and Bangladesh was held recently at Udaipur in South Tripura;

(b) if so, the details thereof?

(c) whether measures to check the continuous intrusion from across the border also figured in the talks;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether the Officers of India and Bangladesh also discussed the matter regarding repair of the poles along the border; and

(f) if so, the time by which the repair work is likely to be started?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI MADHAVSINH SOLANKI): (a) Yes, Sir, a joint meeting of the officials of India and Bangladesh was held at Udaipur in South Tripura.

(b) The above mentioned meeting was held on February 18, 1991 at the level of District Magistrate, South Tripura (India) and Deputy Commissioner, Khagrachari (Bangladesh) to discuss the modalities of the repatriation of Chakma refugees to Bangladesh. Little progress was made as the representatives of Chakma refugees expressed their inability to return to Bangladesh in view of the conditions there being unsuitable for their return and the non-fulfilment of their demands.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

(e) No, Sir.

(f) Does not arise.

Production of Steel

1284. SHRI HARI KEWAL PRASAD: Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) the annual production of steel in the country during 1990-91;

(b) the quantity of steel being imported annually;

(c) whether the Government propose to formulate any scheme to increase the production of steel; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV): (a) The production of finished steel during the year 1990-91 was 13.4 million tonnes.

(b) About 1.5 million tonnes of steel is being imported annually.

(c) and (d) The steps taken for increasing steel production include:

Modernisation of steel plant and improved maintenance of plant